REMARKS

Present Status of Application

The Office Action dated August 24, 2004, objected the drawings for not showing every feature specified in the claims. Claims 1-7 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of copending Application No. 10/082,188, filed February 26, 2002, entitled "Method of narrow search for books on the internet". Claims 6-7 were rejected under35 USC§112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 1 was rejected under35 USC§112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamanoue (US Patent No. 6,745,180) in view of Garrett (US Patent No. 6,473,738).

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended for providing more descriptions and for correcting informalities. No new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the specification, claims and drawings. This Amendment is promptly filed to place the above-captioned case in condition for allowance. After entering the amendments, a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Amendment for the drawings

The drawings were objected for not showing every feature specified in the claims, especially databases, title, subject and author etc.

Applicants have amended figures 3 and 4 and submitted a new drawing of figure 5, according to the present invention, and the specification has been amended

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accordingly. The revised drawings are submitted in compliance with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Guidelines. It is respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

Discussion of double patenting rejections

Claims 1-7 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of copending Application No. 10/082,188, filed February 26, 2002, entitled "Method of narrow search for books on the internet".

Applicant believes that the claimed invention recited in claims 1-7 can distinguish over the copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/082,188, even though it may have some similar features in overlapping. In order to avoid the potential double patenting in the claimed invention, a terminal disclaimer will be submitted once the copending application is patented.

As a result, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Discussion for the 112 rejections

Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 USC§112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The Office Action considered that the steps of "accessing....", "matching...." and "generating...." for respectively the main database and the customer database in claim 6

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were sequential and not able to take place at the same time.

For clarification purposes, claim 6 has been amended to replace the term "simultaneously" with "in parallel". That is, the step of accessing the main database is performed in parallel with the step of accessing the customer database, even though the following matching steps and the steps of generating the search result or the previous orders result are performed sequentially.

The Office Action also considered that the steps of "displaying...." respectively the search result or the previous orders result in claim 7 were not able to take place at the same time.

Although the matching process for the search result and the previous orders result may be varied, the customer system is able to control the display of the search result and the previous orders result. In fact, because the display is under control of the customer system, the search result and the previous orders result can be generated simultaneously.

Claim 1 was rejected under35 USC§112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

The Office Action considered "displaying input means....." in claim 1 indefinite.

According to the present invention, input means can be any kind of suitable interface or a window, rather than a physical device or structure. It is clear to one skilled in the art that an interface can be displayed and used for entering information or orders.

Withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Discussion for 35 USC§103 rejections

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over

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Yamanoue (US Patent No. 6,745,180) in view of Garrett (US Patent No. 6,473,738).

The Office Action considered that Yamanoue substantially disclosed this invention except for the steps of (b) entering orders for books and (i) generating book orders and relied on Garrett for teaching the lacking features.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to provide more detailed descriptions fro clarification purposes.

Applicants submit that independent claim 1 patently defines over the prior references for at least the reason that the cited art fails to disclose each and every feature as claimed in the present invention.

As amended, the independent claim 1 recites:

1. A method of searching and ordering books via the Internet comprising the steps of:

(a)   under control of a vendor server system, storing book identifying information for every book carried by the vendor in a main database;

(b)   under control of the vendor server system, storing book identifying information for every book previously ordered by a customer in a customer database;

(c)   under control of a customer system, displaying input means for entering book identifying information;

(d)   under control of the vendor server system, in response to the book identifying information entered by the customer in said input means, accessing the main database to match the book identifying information entered by the customer with the book identifying information stored in the main database and generating a search result comprising the matching book identifying information;

(e)   under control of the customer system, displaying said search result;

(f)   under control of the vendor server system, in response to book identifying information entered by the customer in said input means, accessing the customer database to match the book identifying information entered by the customer with the book identifying information stored in the customer database and generating a previous orders result comprising the matching book identifying information;

(g)   under control of the customer system, displaying said previous orders result;

(h)   under control of the customer system, displaying input means for entering book orders; and

(i)   under control of the vendor server system, in response to the book orders entered by the customer in said input means for entering book orders, generating book orders..

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Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is patentably distinct from the prior art method, especially at least the steps of (f) under control of the vendor server system, in response to book identifying information entered by the customer in said input means, accessing the customer database to match the book identifying information entered by the customer with the book identifying information stored in the customer database and generating a previous orders result comprising the matching book identifying information, and (g) under control of the customer system, displaying said previous orders result.

Yamanoue discloses a data supply controlling device comprising a data base for user data that stores user data matched with each user. A search result matched with the identifying data of the user stored in the search result data base is provided for a user terminal. Although Yamanoue teaches accessing the database 21 to search data in accordance with the queries and generating a search result stored in a search result database 39 and displaying the search result by the display 15, Yamanoue fails to disclose or mention the steps of (f) under control of the vendor server system, in response to book identifying information entered by the customer in said input means, accessing the customer database to match the book identifying information entered by the customer with the book identifying information stored in the customer database and generating a previous orders result comprising the matching book identifying information, and (g) under control of the customer system, displaying said previous orders result, as recited in claim 1. Yamanoue on the other hand teaches matching the obtained search results with the user ID (col. 11, lines 5-20 and col. 19., lines 49-61).

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Accordingly, the method of the present invention is patentably distinct from the prior art reference because Yamanoue fails to disclose all limitations of claim 1. However, the reference Garrett is unable to remedy the deficiencies of the reference Yamanoue. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7 patentably distinguish over the cited references, either alone or in combination, for at least the reasons stated above as well as for the additional features that these claims recite.

Withdrawal of these rejections under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

WU & CHEUNG, LLP

Dated: November 23, 2004   By: _____
                                   Charles C.H. Wu, Esq.
                                   REG. NO. 39,081
                                   7700 IRVINE CENTER DRIVE, STE. 710
                                   IRVINE, CALIF. 92618-3043
                                   TEL: 949-251-0111
                                   FAX: 949-251-1588
                                   E-MAIL: CCHWU @ EARTHLINK.NET
                                   USPTO CUSTOMER NO.: 25864
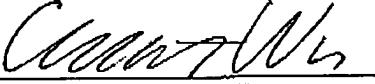
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